



Knightly News

Volume 3

November 2008

Number 6

Calendar of Events

Dec 8	Immaculate Conception
Dec 8-10	Parish Mission
Dec 12	Fourth Degree Meeting 6:30 PM
Dec 13	Respect Life Rosary 6:00 AM
Dec 13	VA Hospital Christmas Party 11:30 AM
Dec 19	Council Christmas Party 6:30 AM
Dec 20	1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM (St Stephen School)
Dec 21	Raymond James Stadium (Bucs vs Chargers) 8:15 PM Game; 3:15 Departure
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 26	Feast of St. Stephen
Dec 28	Raymond James Stadium (Bucs vs Raiders) 1:00 Game; 8:00 Departure
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 7	January Business Meeting 8:00 PM St Stephen's MPR
Jan 9	Fourth Degree Meeting 6:30 PM
Jan 10	Respect Life Rosary 6:00 AM
Jan 13	1st Degree Exemplification 7:30 PM (Nativity)
Jan 16	Family social St. Stephen's Church MPR 7:00PM
Jan 17	2nd Degree Exemplification 9:00AM St Stephen School
Jan 21	Faith and Morals Program 6:30 PM
Jan 22	March for Life Washington DC
Feb 1	Super Bowl RJS Stadium

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



Officers

Grand Knight

Julio Alvarez, Jr

Deputy Grand Knight

Chuck Lusky

Chancellor

Jerry Westbrook

Warden

Greg Celestan

Treasurer

John Sepessy

Advocate

Jim Kelly

Recorder

Paul Crescimone

Inside Guard

John Columbia III

Outside Guard

*Dan Laughman
Anthony Giaccone*

Trustees

Three Years- *Rick Hughes, PGK*
Two Years—*Nick Turco, PGK*
One Year-*Ed Milius, PGK*

Field Agents

Thomas P. Cummings III
813-625-2444

Email: Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

Thomas P. Cummings IV
813-857-7345

Email: Tom.Cummings@kofc.org

Directors & Chairs

Membership Director

Darin O'Neal

Program Director

Chuck Lusky

Church Committee

Matt Preszler

Community Committee

Herb Swoope

Council Committee

Scott Sheffield

Family Committee

John Montaldo

Youth Committee

Tom Bailey

Degree Team Captain

Rick Hughes

Public Relations

Greg Grambor

RJS Concessions Contact

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Newsletter Editor

Nick Turco

Columbian Squires Counselors

*Rob Fisher
Tom Bailey*

Resource Links

Council Web Site

www.kofc14084.org

Florida State Council

www.floridastatecouncil.com

Supreme Council:

www.kofc.org



Grand Knight's Report

Julio Alvarez, Jr
Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com

To my Brother Knights *and your Families*:

After experiencing a fantastic, and whirlwind, 6 months of great contributions and experiences by our Brother Knights and families, we now go into the Season of Advent, in anticipation of the 'ultimate gift' the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the opportunity to reflect on our good works, and take a step back and enjoy our friends and families.

First, a big 'Thank You' and congratulations to our Council Committee who were led by the Holy Spirit to produce a stellar 'First Annual' Casino Knight, raising \$1000 which, as part of the Knights of Columbus 'Helping Life' initiative will be donated on behalf of the Council to Life Care of Brandon. The unbelievable energy, commitment and selfless service of our Council Committee demonstrated how a few could make a big difference in the Community. No doubt that everyone present had a great time, and many departed stating that they were looking forward to next years' event!

Additionally, the many hands that played a part in the contribution of labor at Jennifer Bergen's home were a part of something more than just 'fixing' things. This was a truly humbling display of what Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney founded our Order to accomplish. Brothers, I have no doubts that Marty is ever proud to have called you his 'Brothers' and you have done more than could imagine to let Jennifer truly believe that she is not alone.

Finally, in November, we were proud to welcome three new members into our Council, advance five brothers to the Second Degree of the Order and 11 Brothers, now Sir Knights, into the 4th Degree of the Order. We welcomed Brothers Joe Klippel, Jesse Williams and Shawn Ryan on November 11th (Veterans Day) at the Exemplification held at Nativity Catholic Church. Brothers Steve Bapp, Jim English, Dave Hickie, Pedro Torres, Jr. and Pedro Torres, Sr. were Exemplified in the Second Degree of the Order at St Stephen Catholic School on November 15th, and our new Sir Knights, Brothers Rob Fisher, Greg Grambor, Jim Piotrowski, Chris Lewis, Scott Sheffield, Anthony Giaccone, Jim Bollinger, Tom Bailey, Steve Smith, Steve Haines and Dan Spears were Exemplified in the 4th Degree of our Order on November 29th at the Marriott World Center in Orlando.

This month is about Families...

and I want to personally invite you and your entire family and friends to join your Brother Knights and our families and be a part of two main Council events for the Month of December.

First, in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Community Committee asks you to join us as **we share our families and our time with some 80 Retired Veterans at the Nursing Home of the Hayley Veterans Hospital in Tampa on Saturday, December 13, from 11:30 am** to about 1:00 pm. Please - please - pleasestrongly consider taking a part of what promises to be a very inspiring event for the Retired Heroes, many who have no families, who reside at "Hayley's Cove" and who I know will be positively touched by our making them a part of your family for a brief period on Saturday morning. I'm certain that the true blessing will be the joy we will feel having had the opportunity for us and our families (most especially children) to show our Veterans we care. This event has been coordinated by Brother Herb Swoope as part of our 4th Degree Assembly support to our Veterans. However, I could not help to be inspired by the effort and the payoff to the residents and thus planned to make this a St Stephen Council supported event. I encourage you to take part in this family event, which will feature members of our St Stephen Choir in a program of Holiday Carols, Pizza and drinks and enjoying the company and spirit of all present. **THANKS** – thus far **YOU** have been responsible for donating the major contribution which has produced more than enough donated items to fulfill the goal set of collecting white underwear, T-shirts and white socks which are being wrapped and will be offered as gifts to the residents of the facility. **DON'T MISS OUT...**this visit has picked up a whole lot of momentum and many of you have responded; there is no 'cap' on the number of attendees and we really want make this memorable for these Veterans. Please contact Herb and **SAY YES to this event.** All you have to bring is your family, heart and spirit and the payoff is immeasurable!

The second event will actually be our 'first-ever' Council **'FAMILY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL' on Thursday, December 18th, from 6 to 8 pm at the Hacienda Heights Club.** This time I invite you and your



Grand Knight 's Report cont 'd

families to join together and share in some Christmas cheer with your Brothers and their families and friends. Your Family Committee will be serving up a meal for you and your guests and all you need to bring is a Desert to share and a wrapped gift of no more than \$10 value (purchased or made) for our 'WHITE ELEPHANT gift Exchange (more details on this fun event later). We will provide some small but memorable gifts for all Children in attendance and we understand that a visitor from afar may be stopping by to say hello. If you haven't been at one of our Socials in awhile or haven't had the opportunity to attend one yet, once again, please try to make this one. What a great opportunity for us to get together for a couple of stress-free hours and get to know our families a little better...break bread together, have fun together, all this to celebrate our gift from God....our Savior Jesus Christ!

Please don't forget about our **First Degree Exemplification on Saturday, December 20th, 9 am at St Stephen Catholic School.** We have several Candi-

dates including one of our Seminarians attending so let's welcome these new Brothers with a good demonstration of Fraternity!

Finally, on behalf of myself and my Family...*my wife Emily, my Son, Sir Knight Julio, III (who conveys his greetings from Japan where he is serving in the US Air Force) and my daughter Maria..*we thank you and your Families for your prayers, consideration and support, and your selfless dedication in service to our amazing St Stephen Parish and our Community at large. We are ever proud and humbled to be associated with such awesome and inspiring Catholic families as yourselves. May God keep you safe, in good health and always bestow his blessings upon you!

Merry Christmas!

Julio
Grand Knight 14084

Fraternal Agent 's Report

The Advent Season is upon us and once again we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of Our Lord. We believe (our FAITH) that Christ is the Son of God; that His coming assures us of the HOPE of everlasting life and that the LOVE he expressed for us and urged us to share is His everlasting gift to us. During this season of preparation, let us measure our work as Knights by the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Our Founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney had a deep and abiding FAITH in His God. His HOPE was that he could encourage Catholic men to act in LOVE supporting one another. He sought everyday to know, love and serve God through his service to the Catholic community. We are his legacy. Let us keep the beacon shining brightly as we Keep Christ and His message in our hearts during this Holy Season.

A Blessed Christmas to all,

Tom

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS In these trying economic times:

- Do you have a family plan?
- Do you have at least 6 months of emergency reserves?
- Do you have a plan to reduce debt levels?
- Do you have adequate protection for your family?
- Are your assets safe and secure?
- Have you checked the A.M.Best and S&P Ratings of your insurers?
- Have you checked the Cash Values of your Variable and Universal policies?

Why not plan a Fraternal visit in January to review your Family situation?

Send me an email at thomas.cummings@kofc.org or call 625-2444



Chaplain's Report

Rev Bill Swengros

689-4900

pastor@ststephencatholic.org



My Brother Knights,

A woman recently approached me after Mass and shared that she was feeling so guilty because she wasn't able to buy all the gifts she normally does because of the poor economy. Rather than the usual mountains of toys around the tree on Christmas morning, there would be only one or two. While I could certainly sympathize with the plight of the woman, I also had to smile. Perhaps the Lord was going to use her limited budget to teach her family about the real meaning of Christmas.

For myself, I grew up in a very poor family. I didn't own new clothes until I started working in high school and could afford to buy them myself. Before then, I wore my brother's old hand me downs, usually complete with iron-on patches in the knees and elbows. If we could fit in the same clothes, we did. I remember the arguments I would get into with my sister when she would return my sweaters, stretched out in all the wrong places, reeking of perfume. Ugh!

Christmas was never about the gifts, it was about the giving. We made things for each other or saved to buy small things which symbolized our love. My mother used to always say that all she wanted from us is a day without us fighting with each other. She is still waiting ... (smile).

To this day, our family doesn't focus on gifts. Well, that is not entirely true. The gift I really look forward to receiving each year is a my Dad's present. For the past eight years, he has carved each of us a different figurine of Saint Nicholas. Each one is unique. And in my eyes, all are priceless. Why? They are a gift from the heart, a labor of love.

For many of us, this will be a lean Christmas. Perhaps this is an invitation from the Lord for us to reassess our primary values and core beliefs. Perhaps it is an opportunity for us to rediscover a life of trust in God, of simpler choices or the blessing of family life. Perhaps this is the moment to reexamine what are our needs and what are simply our desires or wants.

The Season of Advent is a wonderful time to re-examine our priorities and to make the necessary adjustments in the way we live our lives. May we always be known for our passionate love for the Lord, our families, and for those in need. Amen.

Have a Blessed Advent and a Wondrous Christmas!

May God bless you!
Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain

Keep in our Prayers

John Joyce, Tom Bailey, Ed Slezak's mother, and especially Tim Donahue's father who passed away in Springfield, OH at the end of November.



Membership Report

Please congratulate Shawn Ryan, Joseph Klippel and Jesse Williams who became a Knight in our Council on November 11, 2008 at the Exemplification held at Nativity Catholic Church.

The following Brothers advanced to the Second Degree in our order on November 15, 2008 at the ceremony held at St. Stephen School: David Hickie, Pedro A. Torres Sr., Pedro A. Torres Jr., Steven Bapp, and Jim English, Congratulations!

Also, I neglected to mention Rich Collins became a third degree Knight on October 11, 2008 at St. Clement Catholic Church.

12-20-2008 We have a **First Degree Exemplification** at St Stephen School **Dress Code is Casual** the Ceremony begins at 9:00 am. Sponsors must have there applicants there by 7:45 a.m. Questions about Admissions should be directed to our Admissions Coordination Team Leader, **Sir Knight Bill Queenan** at Email: admissions@kofc14084.org, Phone: 651-4140.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUR ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS!

Being a Knight means being involved and learning about our Order, our Principles, and most importantly... learning to better practice our Faith. I encourage each and every one of you, whether working towards a degree or sponsoring a potential Candidate, to make the effort to grow as a Knight by taking an active part in achieving the requirements to advancement in the Order.

Finally, please continue your efforts to build the Council and the Order by recruiting **quality** Catholic Gentlemen with the energy and spirit to make a difference in our Community.

Fraternally,
Darin
Membership Director
Knights of Columbus St Stephen Council
#14084
Phone: 671-1833

Congratulations

Knight of the Month—Nick Turco

Family of the Month—Jim and Liz Bollinger



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Highest degree of Knighthood.

Congratulations to our new Sir Knights from St Stephen, who

were Exemplified on Nov 29th in Orlando. Many thanks to the Color Corps members who participated in the Exemplification. By my count, our Assembly provided 20% of the red capes!

The next opportunity to take the Fourth Degree will be in April, and it will be here in Tampa. Stay tuned for details.

The Assembly will be making its next visit to the VA Hospital on Saturday, Dec 13 at 11:30 AM. This will be a Christmas Party. For more information, contact Herb Swoope
hswoope@msn.com or 813-628- 0699

Upcoming Assembly Events (CC means Color Corps event):
Dec 12 5:00 AM: CC—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (Plant City Stadium)

Dec 12 6:30 PM Business Meeting (St Clement)
Dec 13 11:30 AM VA Hospital Christmas Party (Haley VA Hospital)
Dec 13 6:30 PM CC—Fr Fitz 50th Ord Anniv Mass (St Francis)
Dec 14 8:30 AM CC—Mother Seton Council Corp Comm (Nativity)
Dec 14 7:00 PM CC—OLG Festival Closing Mass (Plant City Stadium)

Color Corps members, please contact me by email if you can participate in any of these events—it is a heavy schedule, and we need you!

Fraternally,

Rick Hughes

*Faithful Captain and Color Corps Commander
Bishop McLaughlin Assembly 1850
Assembly1850commander@verizon.net*



Congratulations to our 11 New Sir Knights who were Exemplified in the 4th Degree of our Order during Ceremonies held on November 29th at the Marriot World Resort in Orlando. Our Brothers from St Stephen Council 14084 were joined by three Brothers representing Mother Seton Council and St Clement Councils – totaling 14 new members joining Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin Assembly 1850 - as part of a class of 276 new Sir-Knights. Pictured (left to right) are Sir Knights Raynell Rutheford (St Clement), Rob Fisher, Greg Grambor, Jim Piotrowski, Obasi Obasi (Nativity), Chris Lewis, Scott Sheffield, Anthony Giaccone, Jim Bollinger, Tom Bailey Jr, Steve Smith, Tom Bailey Sr (Fr. William Tyrell Assembly 0161, Tampa), Rich Spinelli (Nativity) and Dan Spears (Not Pictured - Sir Knight Steve Haines).



Deputy Grand Knight Report

Brother's in Christ, the Christmas season is upon us. It is the season of giving, as we Knight's know how much we give of our services and talents all year long. I'm so proud of each and every one of you as we stood shoulder to shoulder doing the works of the Lord in the many projects that we under took this past year.

As it is the Christmas season I have to ask St Nick for a few more gifts for our council.

My first gift is the need for a "Pro-Life Family" to serve our council. This family will organize our council's pro-life program under the direction of the Florida pro-life chair couple. I have a list of activities that can be done. If you are interested I will share these activities with you. Please contact myself at 760-0780, or Herb Swoope at 654-7458. This is a key role that has been open for a while.

The next gift is the need for a Special Olympics Coordinator. This person will be the liaison between the Special Olympics and our council. He would have to keep us informed of Local, District and State games. Make the council aware of the possible involvement opportunities for coaching or supporting individuals, teams and games in our area. We really need help in this area. If you have the connections with Special Olympics or are willing to take the lead in this very important activity please contact myself at 760-0780, or Herb Swoope at 654-7458.

The last gift is for each Program Director to be over run with manpower. Please look over the different programs and join a program of your choosing.

God Bless and have a wonderful Christmas Season.

Chuck
DGK

Council Service Programs

Church Program

Director: **Matt Preszler**; rampres@verizon.net
Ministering to the needs of the Church.
Parish Round Table
Lay Apostolate
Evangelization
Vocations
Parochial Services
Religious Devotions
Keep Christ in Christmas

Community Program

Director: **Herb Swoope**; hswoope@msn.com
Shaping the world around you.
Pro-Life
Volunteerism – Special Olympics
Human Needs – St Vincent DePaul
Civic Involvement
Environment – Road Clean Up
Public Safety – Blue Mass
Health Services – VA Visits, Military Family
Decency
Honor Columbus

Council Program

Director: **Scott Sheffield**; sheff9@gmail.com
Entertaining, Enjoyable and Beneficial
Public Relations
Fraternalism
Cultural
Social
Blood Donors
Athletics

Family Program

Director: **John Montaldo SJ**; **Anthony Giaccone**; gi-acconetravel@aol.com
Strengthening Family Life.
Family Programs
Education
Communications
Family of the Month/Year
Recreation
Survivor's Assistance
Memorials

Youth Program

Director: **Tom Bailey**, **Rob Fisher**; rob-fish001@verizon.net
Building leaders for the future
Columbian Squires
Youth Groups
Athletics
Educational Programs
Youth Welfare
Religious Activities
Social Activities

Membership Program

Director: **Darin O'Neal**; JONeal@kingengineering.com
Recruitment,
Retention
Insurance Promotion



Committee Reports

Council Activities

- Don't miss out on our Christmas Social Thursday, Dec 18th. The Council Program will be sponsoring a White Elephant gift exchange. If you have never done one of these, don't miss out! Be sure to let Anthony Giaccone know you want to participate when you RSVP with him, and bring a WRAPPED, \$10 MAXIMUM GIFT. The idea is to find the best deal you can for under \$10. Everyone who participates will leave with a gift, but your first choice may not be what you end up with!
- Our Program's next big event will be the Ladies' Appreciation Night tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Jan 17th. This is a chance to show your love for those who support us and enable us to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit each and every day. This is mainly directed towards wives - mothers are welcome also. Plan on working that evening as a cook, server, bartender, or other service professional as we treat our ladies to a great evening. Venue, pricing, and details to come.

Do you want to be in on the planning of the Council fun? Do you have a gift for men's spirituality? Do you want to serve your fellow Council members first? If so, you would make a great candidate for our Committee. Contact me at the email or cell number below and I can get you started.

Scott Sheffield
Council Program Director
sheff9@gmail.com
813-352-1223

Church Activities

Brother Knights –

The Advent Season has begun and the reason for this season is for us to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Please take time to do so.

Since the Knights are the right hand of the Church, it would be instrumental for us to lead the way. During the pinnacle night, which is Christmas Eve, our brother Knight Ed Slazack will be coordinating parking for all masses. He assures me that it is not hard and you'll always get a great parking spot. Please contact Ed Slazack. Although there are only three more weeks remaining, we still need a lot of prayers said for the Chalice Program. Afterwards, the program will be temporarily put on hold to allow for the program to be reorganized. If you have any suggestions please contact me.

Fraternally
Matthew Preszler
Church Committee

Buc \$ schedule—please volunteer to help

Game	Date	Opponent	Depart St Stephen	Stadium Check In	Stand Opens	Kick Off	Remarks/Status
1	Sun, Aug 17	New England Patriots	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	6:00PM	8:00PM	Complete (7 volunteers)
2	Sat, Aug 23	Jacksonville Jaguars	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	Complete (11 volunteers)
3	Sun, Sep 14	Atlanta Falcons	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	2:05 PM	4:05 PM	Complete (12 Volunteers)
4	Sun, Sep 28	Green Bay Packers	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Complete (12 Volunteers)
5	Sun, Oct 12	Carolina Panthers	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Complete (12 Volunteers)
6	Sun, Oct 19	Seattle Seahawks	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	6:15 PM	8:15 PM	Complete (11 Volunteers)
7	Sun, Nov 16	Minnesota Vikings	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Complete (13 Volunteers)
8	Sun, Nov 30	Orleans Saints	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Complete (11 Volunteers)
9	Sun, Dec 21	San Diego Chargers	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	6:15 PM	8:15 PM	Need 4-6 more volunteers
10	Sun, Dec 28	Oakland Raiders	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Need 4-6 more volunteers
		TBA Wild Card Playoff					
		TBA Divisional Playoff					
Sun, Feb 1, 09 SUPERBOWL XVI						6:00 PM	



Community Activities

It is the place we call home – with all its good and bad features, its beauty and ugliness, its strengths and weaknesses. Every individual has a voice in shaping the world around him, and every individual can make that voice heard. Make your voice heard in your community. Do more than throw up your hands in despair over what's wrong with the world. Your community offers limitless opportunity for action that can be seen, felt and judged for its true worth. Look for something that's needed and workable in your community – fight poverty, aid individuals with intellectual disabilities, plant a tree, sponsor a blood pressure screening, support law enforcement, campaign for every baby's right to life, help the aged – whatever your community's needs, your members' interests and your council's resources allow.

No matter what you choose ... get involved!

CHRISTMAS WITH OUR VETERANS

Come out and spend some time with our Veterans on December 13, 2008 at the nursing home "Haley's Cove" located at the Haley Veterans Hospital Facility. The Knights of Columbus are going to have a pizza party. We will be starting at 11:30 A.M. at the Nursing Home. We are asking all Knights to help support these Veterans. There are approximately 80 residents; we are looking for white T-shirts sizes Large thru 5x, underwear sizes 38 thru 44 waist, and socks can vary in size. These items will be gift wrapped and handed out to each Veteran. Please bring all items to the next Council Meeting on December 3. We will have Santa Claus there to help us with the presents. The St. Stephen's Choir will be in attendance singing Christmas Carols. Will be providing cookies by our Ladies and Wings provided by Beef O' Brady's Located at the Best Western Brandon.

We will assemble in the parking lot at the Best Western on Route #60 and carpool to the VA. Departure time will be 10:15 A.M. After the event Chris is willing to offer some free Wings / Beer to the volunteers that worked the event.

Let's not forget that God is giving all of us this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who have served to protect this great Nation of ours.

Respect Life Rosary: (Woman s Abortion Clinic) is scheduled for December 13, 2008 at 6:00 a.m. The council is looking for a couple to assist helping the Respect Life program. If you are interested please contact Herbert Swoope at 813-628-0699 or E-Mail hswoope@msn.com.

Christmas, my child, is love in action... When you love someone you give to them, as God gives to us. The greatest gift He ever gave was the person of His Son, sent to us in human form so that we might know what God the Father is really like! Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.

Happy Holidays

God Bless
Herbert Swoope

Family Activities

UPDATE FOR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL:

The Family Christmas Social date and location has changed to December 18th (THURSDAY) @ 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the Hacienda Heights Club House 10810 Laredo Court, Riverview, Florida 33569 (Approx. 1/2 mile south of Boyette/Gibson Drive off US Hwy 301 on the eastside of road). The council will be providing the meal (Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread and Hot and Cold Drinks). We ask that you bring your favorite Christmas cookies or dessert to share with everyone. We are hoping for a special appearance by "Old Saint Nick". Please R.S.V.P. by email John Montaldo at Monty413@Tampabay.rr.com with total attending and what you are bringing to share by December 17th. See you there.

Thanks,
John
813-781-1833 cell